

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00
ICA-11 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01
L-03 H-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 PA-01 /129 W
-----111327 050300Z /17

R 040929Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7250
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USUN NEW YORK 723

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 2555

MANILA FOR USADB

PARIS FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, UN, AF
SUBJECT: UNFDAC EXPERT DESCRIBES FURTHER PROGRESS IN AFGHANISTAN'S
UPPER HELMAND OPIUM ERADICATION PROJECT

REF: KABUL 1525

1. SUMMARY. IN SPITE OF BUREAUCRATIC DELAYS (MOSTLY IN GENEVA),
THE UNFDAC ANTI-OPIUM ERADICATION PROJECT FOR THE WEST KAJAKAI
DISTRICT OF THE UPPER HELMAND VALLEY CONTINUES TO TAKE FORM
AND MOVE FORWARD. END SUMMARY.

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2. MICHAEL C. DEMETRE, THE UNFDAC EXPERT IN CHARGE OF THE UPPER
HELMAND OPIUM ERADICATION PROJECT VISITED AFGHANISTAN MARCH 16
TO 31 TO DISCUSS WITH AFGHAN, UN, AND US OFFICIALS THE CURRENT
STATUS OF HIS PROJECT. THE GENERAL CONSENSUS OF DEMETRE'S
INTERLOCUTORS WAS THAT HIS PRELIMINARY DRAFT PLAN APPEARS TO
BE WELL CONCEIVED, ALTHOUGH UNFDAC'S TIMING CONTINUES TO SLIP.

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE, AD INTERIM, ARTHUR N. HOLCOMBE, DEMETRE WAS APPARENTLY ABLE TO CONVINCE AFGHAN NARCOTICS COORDINATOR MOHAMMAD YAHYA MAROOFI THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) SHOULD PROVIDE UNFAC WITH AN OFFICIAL LETTER REQUESTING FURTHER ACTION IN THIS PROJECT. (COMMENT: THE GOA, UNDP/AFGHANISTAN, AND THIS EMBASSY HAVE UNTIL NOW REGARDED THE DECISIONS OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON AFGHAN NARCOTICS MATTERS AS SUFFICIENT FOR THIS PURPOSE, BUT UNFAC HAS INSISTED THAT A SPECIFIC LETTER IS NECESSARY. END COMMENT)

2. WHILE TALKING TO AFGHAN OFFICIALS (E. G. ABDUL AZIZ FAROUGH, DEPUTY PLANNING MINISTER, AND N.A. WAHAB, PRESIDENT OF THE WATER AND SOIL SURVEY DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND POWER), DEMETRE UNEARTHED SOME GOA DISQUIETUDE OVER WHAT THEY VIEWED AS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PROMISED ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB) SUPPORT FOR DEMETRE'S PROJECT IN THE WEST KAJAKAI (REFTEL) WOULD INVOLVE THE DIVERSION OF ADB FUNDS FROM THE ADB'S LARGE NEARBY WEST SERAJ PROJECT OR THE THIRD GENERATOR AT KAJAKAI. DURING A SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH AFGHAN NARCOTICS COORDINATOR MOHAMMAD YAHYA MAROOFI, AN EMBASSY OFFICER DETERMINED THAT DEMETRE HAD SUCCESSFULLY CONVINCED THE AFGHANS THAT THE ADB SUPPORT BEING CONSIDERED FOR HIS WEST KAJAKAI INFRASTRUCTURE WOULD BE "NEW MONEY" OVER AND ABOVE THE ADB'S WEST SERAJ PROJECT OR THIRD-GENERATOR FUNDING -- AND THAT THESE PROJECTS WOULD BE KEPT SEPARATE BY THE ADB. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. DEMETRE ALSO DISCERNED SOME AFGHAN HOPE THAT USAID WOULD BECOME INVOLVED IN HIS WEST KAJAKAI PROJECT, THEREBY LOCKING THAT AMERICAN AGENCY MORE FIRMLY INTO THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HELMAND VALLEY (COMMENT: THE AFGHANS EVIDENTALLY SENSE THE LIMITED EXPANSION POTENTIAL OF OUR CURRENT DRAINAGE PROJECT IN THE CENTRAL HELMAND. END COMMENT). DEMETRE MADE CLEAR THE MULTILATERAL, INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER OF HIS PROJECT -- AND, IN THIS CONNECTION, REPEATED TO THE AFGHANS THAT THE UPPER HELMAND SCHEME IS ONLY A RELATIVELY MODEST PILOT PROJECT OF LIMITED SCOPE DESIGNED TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR LARGER-SCALE OPIUM ERADICATION PROJECTS IN THE MAJOR PRODUCTION REGIONS OF NANGARHAR AND KUNAR PROVINCES. DEMETRE DID, HOWEVER, BRIEF USAID/AFGHANISTAN OFFICIALS ABOUT HIS PROJECT WHILE HERE. USAID INTENDS TO REMAIN ALERT TO ANY SEGMENTS OF THE PROJECT WHICH COULD APPROPRIATELY BE UNDERTAKEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT AID MANDATE.

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L-03 H-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 CEA-01 PA-01 /129 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KABUL 2555

MANILA FOR USADB

PARIS FOR DEA

4. DEMETRE ALSO DESCRIBED TO EMBASSY OFFICERS ENCOURAGING APPROACHES HE HAS RECEIVED AT GENEVA FROM THE BRITISH, WHO HAVE DISPLAYED GREAT INTEREST IN HIS PROJECT AND HAVE INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT. HE ALSO PLANS TO FOLLOW UP EARLIER APPROACHES MADE TO THE IRANIANS, GERMANS, AND JAPANESE.

5. DEMETRE HOPES TO GET AUTHORIZATION FROM HIS UNFDAC SUPER-TO FLY TO MANILA IN EARLY MAY TO DISCUSS FINANCING WITH THE ADB. (THE UNFDAC HIERARCHY IS APPARENTLY WAITING FIRST FOR

THE "OFFICIAL" GOA LETTER OF REQUEST BEFORE AUTHORIZING HIS
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TRIP.) HE WOULD DROP OFF COPIES OF HIS PLAN WITH AFGHAN, UN, AND US OFFICIALS AT KABUL ENROUTE IN ORDER TO PERMIT THEM TIME TO CONSIDER HIS PLAN BEFORE HE RETURNS TO KABUL ON OR ABOUT MAY 23, AT WHICH TIME HE WOULD MAKE A FORMAL PRESENTATION TO

THE JOINT COMMISSION ON AFGHAN NARCOTICS MATTERS.

6. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY CONTINUES TO DISCERN SLOW, BUT STEADY, FORWARD PROGRESS IN THIS IMPORTANT UNFDAC EFFORT. WE -- AND OTHER JOINT COMMISSION MEMBERS -- ARE TROUBLED, HOWEVER, BY THE APPARENTLY UNNECESSARILY LENGTHY UNFDAC DELAY IN NAILING DOWN THE ADB INTEREST (REFTEL) IN THE EXPENSIVE FIRST ELEMENT (E.G., IRRIGATION AND ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE) OF THE PROJECT. THE AFGHANS WOULD BE ENCOURAGED IF UNFDAC COULD SECURE THIS ASSURANCE OF ADB SUPPORT. SUCH SUPPORT WOULD ALSO MAKE IT EASIER FOR DEMETRE TO APPROACH POSSIBLE DONOR GOVERNMENTS FOR THE FUNDING OF OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE PROJECT. WE ARE AWARE OF THE "REALPOLITIK" INTERPLAY AMONG THE SEVERAL UN OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN GENEVA, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING US MISSION GENEVA COULD DO TO CONVINCE THESE PARTIES THAT THIS PROJECT COULD WELL BECOME CHOKED BY RED TAPE IF THEY DO NOT BECOME MORE FLEXIBLE. FOR INSTANCE, THE GOA LETTER, WHICH THEY ALONE FIND SO NECESSARY, MIGHT TAKE A LONG TIME TO BE CLEARED THROUGH THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT AND WHICH HAD INTENDED THAT ITS JOINT COMMISSION COULD MAKE THESE DECISIONS. THE JOINT COMMISSION IS, AFTERNALL, A CREATION OF PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD DAOUD.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 04 apr 1978
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Review Release Event: n/a
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TAGS: SNAR, AF, UN
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